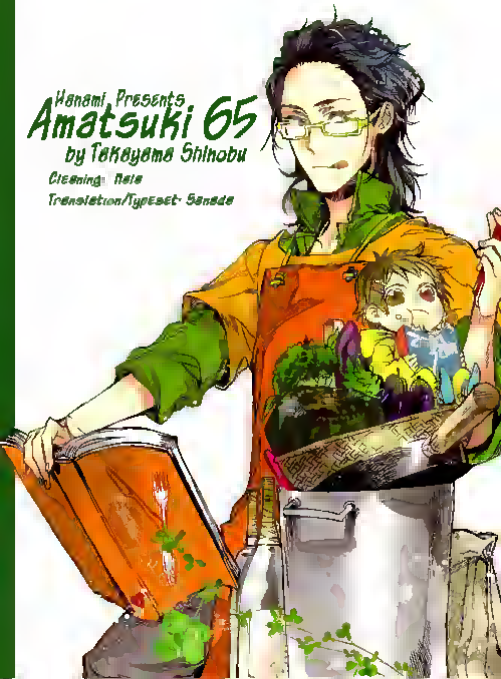
Wanami Presents

Amatsuki 65

by Takayama Shinobu

Cleaning: Rais

Translation/Typeset: Sanada



Translation Notes

Page 1

The title "Spreading Clover" refers to the bush clover plant, called "hagi" in Japanese. In flower language, hagi is associated with multiple meanings, "Facing forward," "being too shy to express oneself", and "anxiety."

Page 2

"Sai Lan" is Shiraai's name when read in Chinese. In case you didn't pick up on it before, Shiraai's family is involved in the Chinese mafia. Counterfiet technology is a pretty big business for Chinese criminal organizations, so her family probably reverse engineers existing products to produce knockoffs.

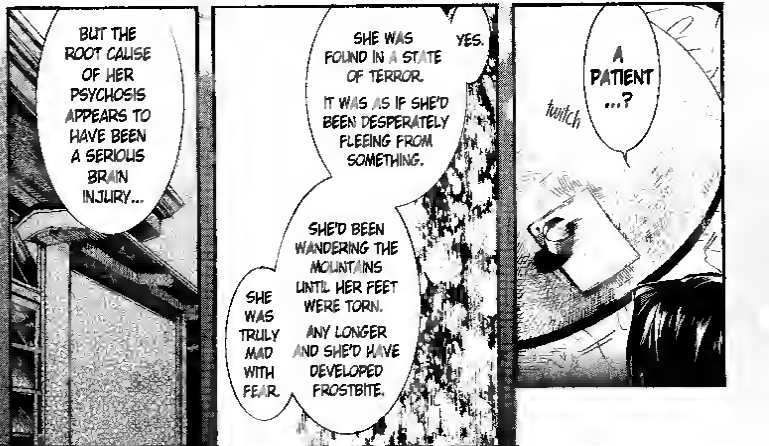
Chapter 65:
Spreading Clover

SL
AM
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I ASSUME YOU WANT ME TO REPORT ON THE INFORMATION I'VE GATHERED IN JAPAN, BUT...
WHY DID YOU CALL ME HERE, UNCLE?
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SCOLD ME AGAIN?
MY DEAR, SWEET, NIECE.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS, BAI LAN.

I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO COME HERE SO I COULD CRITICIZE YOU.
...ALTHOUGH IT CERTAINLY IS TRUE THAT YOUR RECENT CLUMSY ACTIONS HAVE COST US SEVERAL CONNECTIONS.
YOU'VE CAUSED A HASSLE FOR THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
BUT THAT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN YOU CAN TELL HIM THAT I BEG HIS FORGIVE-NESS
SO WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?
WE ARE BOTH DEALERS IN INFOR-MATION.
TO-DAY,
I RECIEVED A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF YOUR ASSIGNED CLIENTS.
"THANK YOU, SHIRAAI-SAMA, BUT WHAT WAS LOST HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND."
WHAT!?

BUT GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES OF THIS CASE,
I THOUGHT IT BEST TO LOOK INTO IT MYSELF.
BUT WHY!?
THAT WAS MY ASSIGN-MENT!
CALM DOWN.
FORGIVE ME,
SLAM
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT!?

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
AT THE MOMENT, SHE IS A PATIENT AT A RURAL CLINIC IN JAPAN.
THE "LOST ITEM" WAS A WOMAN BY THE NAME OF "ITOU CHIE"
tap
THAT'S WHY...
I TOLD YOU THAT WE WERE BOTH DEALERS IN INFORMATION.


BUT THE ROOT CAUSE OF HER PSYCHOSIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY...
YES.
SHE WAS FOUND IN A STATE OF TERROR.
IT WAS AS IF SHE'D BEEN DESPERATELY FLEEING FROM SOMETHING.
SHE'D BEEN WANDERING THE MOUNTAINS UNTIL HER FEET WERE TORN.
ANY LONGER AND SHE'D HAVE DEVELOPED FROSTBITE.
SHE WAS TRULY MAD WITH FEAR.
A PATIENT ...?
twitch

AT FIRST ...
SHE WOULD ONLY INCOHERENTLY MUMBLE A NAME OVER AND OVER. "URUSHIBARA, URUSHIBARA."
QUESTIONING HER WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
LIKE A MANTRA?
URU-SHI-BARA ...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT'S AN UNUSUAL SURNAME. IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO TRACK THAT PERSON
WE CANNOT.
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH TERROR...?
I PITY THAT POOR WOMAN.
THE JAPANESE POLICE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT HER SITUATION AND BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION ...
BUT BECAUSE SHE WILL ONLY REPEAT THAT NAME LIKE A MANTRA, PROGRESS IS SLOW.
THAT WOMAN ...
WAS ONCE A STUDENT AT ONE OF JAPAN'S TOP NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES.
THAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE REST, I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
?
URUSHIBARA...
FOR SOME REASON, THAT NAME SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
I SEE.
HASHITA AKINOBU.
HE WORKS FOR YOU.
gasp
PERHAPS THAT WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY.
//
THAT'S... THAT'S RIGHT!
HE DID MENTION THAT NAME.
THAT SCRAWNY RAT OF YOURS...
ISN'T WORTH MY TIME.
I'VE BEEN AWARE OF THIS "URUSHIBARA" AND HAVE BEEN TRACKING HIM FOR SOME TIME.
UNCLE, I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE ACQUAINTED WITH MY HUMBLE SUBORDINATE...
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW YOU KNOW EACH OTHER.
WHAT!?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
IN FACT, HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF OUR FAMILY'S RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

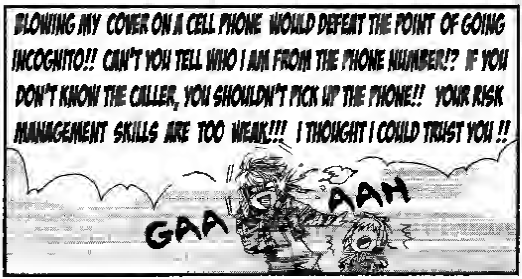
!
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
THAT MAN IS A CRIMINAL!
HE'S INSANE!
DID YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER HE WAS WHEN YOU HIRED HIM!?
THOSE WHO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS ...
TOWARDS THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS ARE OFTEN CALLED "INSANE."
GASP
THEY MUST CAST ASIDE THE MORAL PREACHING OF CIVILIZED SOCIETY IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD.
HE'S WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A "GENIUS."
AND HE'S BECOME ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSIBLE TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR BUSINESS.
I PERSONALLY SCOUTED HIM YEARS AGO.
I THOUGHT HE'D COVERED HIS TRACKS PERFECTLY AFTER LEAVING HIS MEDICAL WORK.
SHIRA-AI,
FOR YOU TO EVEN DISCOVER HIS FOOT-PRINTS..
IS VERY IMPRES-SIVE
YOUR PAST TRANS-GRESSIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THAT

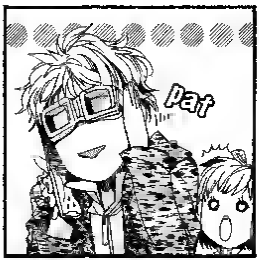
SHIRA-AI.
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR YOUR APPROVAL OR COOPERATION.
I ONLY ASK THAT WE SHARE INFORMATION.
THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION I HAVE.
I UNDERSTAND.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
IF I HEAR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS "URUSHIBARA," I'LL REPORT TO YOU FIRST.
CRASH
THAT'S ENOUGH!!

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN HIS MADNESS.
YOU KNOW ... THE HUNTER OFTEN BECOMES THE HUNTED.
I'VE ALWAYS SHOWN YOU PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE UP UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE BEEN USEFUL.
SHIRA-AI.
.....

IF YOU DO, THEN...
I WON'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT JAPANESE PET YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING.
YOUR JOB IS TO BE A CORPORATE SPY.
YOU STEAL TECHNOLOGY FROM THE JAPANESE.
YOU KNOW OUR FAMILY IS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ILLEGAL ACTIVITES.
DON'T BE MISTAKEN ABOUT OUR FAMILY HIERARCHY.
MY R&D UNIT IS THE HEAD.
AND YOU ARE LITTLE MORE THAN A CLAW AT THE END OF AN ARM
DON'T THINK OF SCRATCHING BACK AT US
SLAM

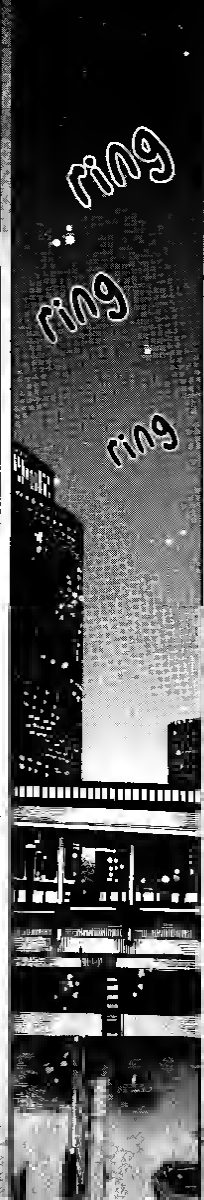
You've reached my cell phone~ Who is this~?
I'm here~!


BLOWING MY COVER ON A CELL PHONE WOULD DEFEAT THE POINT OF GOING INCOGNITO!! CAN'T YOU TELL WHO I AM FROM THE PHONE NUMBER!? IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE CALLER, YOU SHOULDN'T PICK UP THE PHONE!! YOUR RISK MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE TOO WEAK!!! I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU!!
GAA
AAH

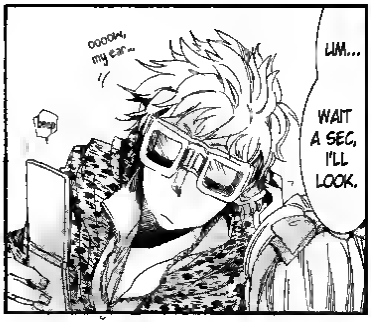

Pat

drip
drip
drip

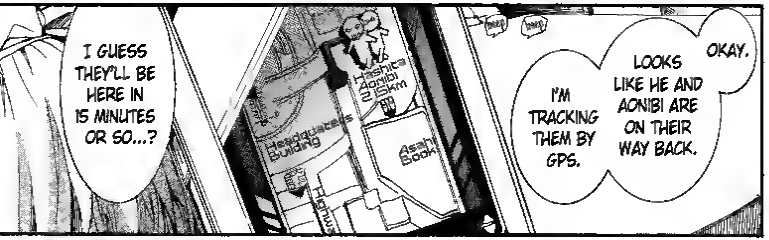
Uh, incidentally, only my closest associates know this phone number, so I was jus g a joke, y
I KNOW THAT!!
I JUST NEEDED TO VENT.
That's great!
YES.
..Um, Shiraai-san? I guess your meeting is over, huh?


ring
ring
ring

Oh, really?
I guess your meeting didn't go so well, huh?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
IT WAS A ROUTINE BUSINESS MEETING, SO IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING COULD GO WRONG!
IT WAS JUST ANOTHER BORING, UNIMPORTANT MEETING THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BOTHERED GOING TO!
Uh, sorry I asked..


UM...
WAIT A SEC, I'LL LOOK.
OOOOH, my ear...
beep

!!
IS HASHITA BACK YET?
I NEED TO TALK TO HIM.


I GUESS THEY'LL BE HERE IN 15 MINUTES OR SO...?
Headquarters Building
Asahi Beer
Hall
beep
beep
OKAY.
LOOKS LIKE HE AND AONIBI ARE ON THEIR WAY BACK.
I'M TRACKING THEM BY GPS.

ALRIGHT, THAT'S GOOD.
TELL THEM TO STAY THERE AND WAIT FOR ME.

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL EVERONE.

I'VE GOT TO BUY SOMETHING LACY AND FRILLY AND CUTE.
HUH?
HUH? WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
In about two hours
?
OKAY.
WHEN WILL YOU BE HERE?
THEIR OUTFITS ARE THE RESULT OF SHIRAAI-SAN'S ATTEMPTS TO DE-STRESS.
Sparkle
I'M GOING SHOPPING TO GET SOMETHING LACY AND FRILLY AND CUTE FOR AONIBI AND LILY.
I'LL BE THERE IN ABOUT TWO HOURS.
Aha haha
I...
I get it (sort of)
Okay!
Have fun!
But... What are you getting for me...?
YOU HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR FASHION
I SEE
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
BEEP

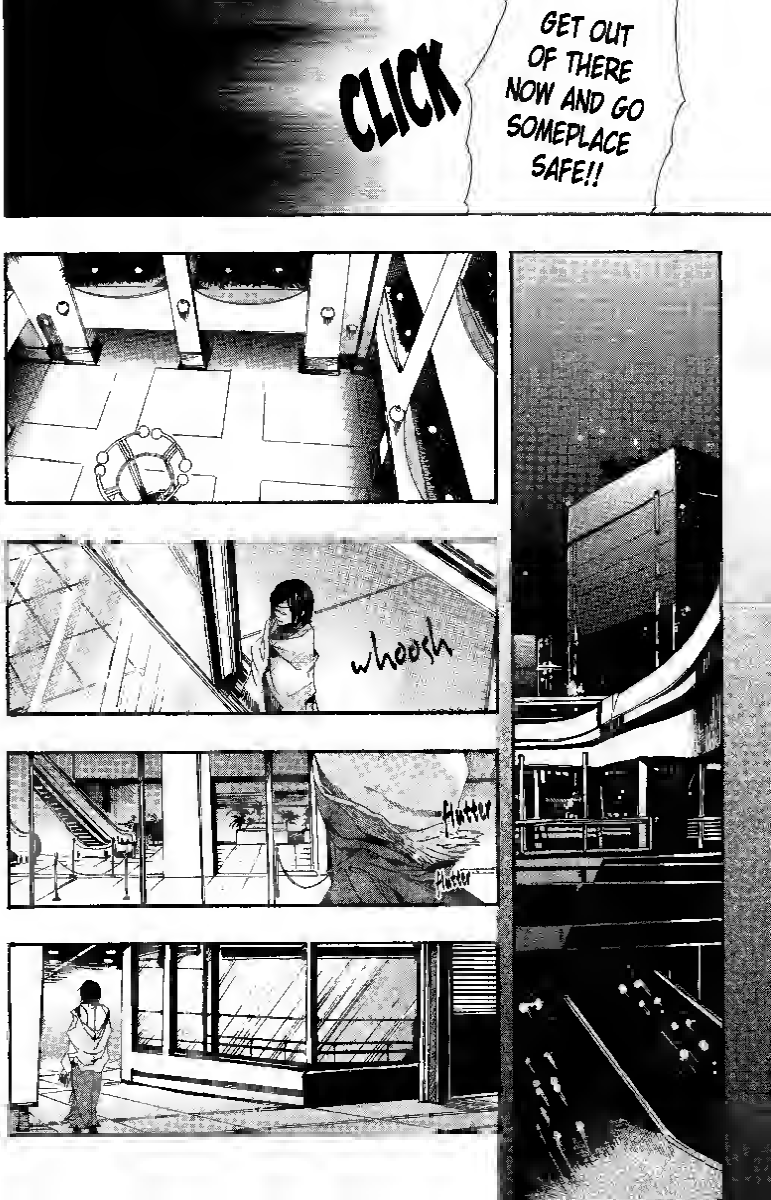
FIVE YEARS AGO...
I WAS WORKING ON A CASE INVOLVING AN EX-COP FROM THE JUVENILE BEAT...
AND I CAME ACROSS SOMETHING INTERESTING
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES YOU KNOW!!
YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING!
THE COP HAD FOUND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR A HORRIFIC CRIME THAT SHOCKED THE COUNTRY.
WITH THE CRIMINAL'S DAUGHTER IN HIS ARMS, HE TOOK THE STORY PUBLIC.
THE REAL VICTIM, THOUGH, WAS THAT LITTLE GIRL.
AND BY THE THOUGHT OF THAT MAN AND THE LITTLE GIRL...
PEOPLE WERE FASCINATED BY THE SCANDAL...
YOU'RE INSANE!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I'LL BE HIGHER THAN GOD.
WHAT HE SAW IN THAT PLACE.
I WISH I KNEW...
I HIRED HIM OUT OF SIMPLE CURIOSITY.
AND SO...

I WONDER...
IF THE CLIENT COULD GIVE US MORE INFORMATION?
RING!
THE MISSING WOMAN MIGHT HAVE SOME RELATION TO SENSAI, TOO...
WHAT WAS HER NAME..?
type
GRUMBLE
HER NAME...
GOTTA CALL THE CLIENT...
SO HUNGRY...
MEAT BUNS...
grumble grumble
MAYBE IT'S GOOD THAT I SAID TO MEET IN TWO HOURS.

ring ring
CK

WAKASA-KUN?
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN HALF AN HOUR SINCE I CALLED YOU...
SHIRAAI-SAN!!
GASP
GASP
GASP
GASP
!?
Hashita-san and Aonibi-san just disappeared from the GPS monitor!!
For some reason, they both turned off their phones at the same time!
WHAT!?
And after that.

I SUDDENLY GOT AN EMAIL FROM SENSAI HEAD-QUARTERS...
.....
BUT THE WEIRD THING IS, THE CONTENTS OF THE EMAIL WERE JUST A SINGLE URL!
THE LINK POINTED TO THE BREAKING NEWS PAGE OF A LOCAL ONLINE NEWSPAPER.
GASP
IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE DOCTORS AND PATIENTS MADE IT OUT SAFELY,
BUT ONE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT AND HER ATTENDING PHYSICIAN WERE KILLED.
YOU CAN READ THE WHOLE THING WHEN YOU GET BACK, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT TO SEE...
THERE'S A REPORT THAT A SMALL CLINIC JUST BURNED TO THE GROUND!
The patient's name was "Itou Chie "
Shiraai-san... what the hell is going on here!?
I'M ON MY WAY!


CLICK
GET OUT OF THERE NOW AND GO SOMEPLACE SAFE!!
whoosh
flutter
flutter

RUSTLE

TAP

TAP

TAP

step

step

step

step
step

SHOCK
!?
step
step
thump
thump
thump
thump
Thank you for my baby!!

Now on to breaking news from our reporter Utsumi who is live at the site of a massive gas explosion
There were nine offices using the building.
Gas Explosion Downtown To
But thankfully the accident occurred late at night, so the building was unoccupied.
There are no reports of injuries
WOW, GAS EXPLOSIONS ARE RARE, AREN'T THEY?
HUH, I'D HAVE THOUGHT STUFF LIKE THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE THESE DAYS
talk
talk
LOOKS LIKE THE BUILDING WAS FILLED WITH SKETCHY MASSAGE SPAS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
THOSE PLACES AREN'T VERY WELL MAINTAINED.
WELL, THAT'S THE SERVICE INDUSTRY FOR YA.
SCARY.
talk
talk
talk

SFX: *BOOM*
WHOOO
WHOOO

OKAY, EVERYONE.
YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE IN!
I'LL START BY ANNOUNCING THE NAMES AND SCORES OF THOSE WHO FAILED,
SO PREPARE YOURSELVES!
EEEEE!?
THAT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT!
STOP YOUR WHINING!
DO YOU THINK YOUR RESULTS THIS TIME WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT THAN USUAL?
GRRRRR!!
I MIGHT AS WELL START WITH THE TRULY PATHETIC GRADES!
AND THE WORST SCORE BELONGS TO...
RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI!
FIVE POINTS!!
HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE!?
GAH!!
SNICKER
WOW
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU!?
HOW IS IT THAT YOUR GRADES IN MATH AND LANGUAGE ARE FINE, BUT YOUR HISTORY MARKS ARE LIKE THIS!?
GRR
GRR
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL!?
BWAHAHA
No No No No !!!!
Or is he?

TADAAA!!
THE EDO BAKUMATSU TRAVELING EXHIBIT
YOU GET TO GO ON A MANDATORY EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP OVER YOUR SPRING VACATION!!
THE EDO BAKUMATSU TRAVELING EXHIBIT! IT OPENS TOMORROW!
SLAM!
sparkle
HUH?
BUT I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED A PERFECT MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT FOR THOSE WHO FAILED.
MY SPRING VACATION!!
What do you mean!?
WHAT!? No way
WHOOOOOOOOAAAA!!
That's just cruel.
Uwaahh you are so stupid.
What do you expect with your grades?
YOU CAN FEEL THE BREATH OF HISTORY ON YOUR SKIN AND IN YOUR BONES AND IN YOUR EYES!!
EEEEE!?
IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LEARN BY EXPERIENCE!!
GUNUNU
THIS IS PERFECT FOR STUDENTS LIKE YOU WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN HISTORY!
.....
Nakahara-san... well, that's no surprise.
PERFECT SCORE!
100
GAH!
I'm just barely safe!
Haha~ 43 points!
Nemoto!?
Nonizaka, you too!?
43
Yoshi-Zaki!?
SUCKS TO BE YOU, BRO, HAVE FUN STUDYING, RIKUGOU.
OH, I GOT 97 POINTS.

!!!
BEEP BEEP
090XXXX
BEEP BEEP
I only needed two more points to pass!!
:
:
SHUDDER
Momi-ji?
Sparkle
HAHA!
SHUT UP!!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE SCORED A LITTLE HIGHER!!
Yaaaaay!
You are a true friend!
AHAHAHA!!
EDO B
MATSU
The number you have dialed is not in service.
Please hang up and try again.
CLICK